



The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Bruce County Council Chambers - 30 Park Street, Walkerton, ON

Council Present: Chris Peabody, Mayor
Kym Hutcheon, Deputy Mayor (Attended remotely)
Mitch Clark, Councillor
Michael Crawford, Councillor
Tim Elphick, Councillor
Gregory J. McLean, Councillor
Steve Travale, Councillor

Staff Present: Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)
Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer
Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services
Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations
Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services
Dominic Paquette, Building and Planning Manager/CBO

1. National Anthem of Canada

The Council Meeting began with the playing of [Toronto Symphony Orchestra's instrumental recording](#) of O' Canada.

2. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement

3. Welcoming Remarks from Council to New Councillor

Council extended welcoming remarks to Councillor, Michael Crawford, who was appointed on January 22, 2026, noting their enthusiasm to work together through the remainder of this Council term, and appreciation of Councillor Crawford's commitment and community perspective.

4. Acceptance of Council Agenda

Resolution 26-05-01

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Michael Crawford

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the Agenda for the regular Council Meeting on February 24, 2026 as presented.

Carried

5. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None disclosed at this time.

6. Public Meetings Required Under the Planning Act

6.1 Subdivision Application - S-2025-008

Benito Russo, Bruce County Intermediate Planner, provided a summary of the application and the ways in which individuals could receive updates about the application.

Mr. Russo confirmed the zoning of the property and the density proposed in the application. Mr. Russo explained the studies and reports that were submitted in conjunction with the application, including details about the habitat compensation lands that were developed and monitored by the Municipality of Brockton to address obligations under the Species At Risk Act.

Mr. Russo summarized comments received from the agencies that were circulated.

No individuals in attendance in-person or remotely indicated that they wished to participate when given the opportunity to do so.

Mayor Peabody noted Brockton's compliance with Provincial legislation and advancement in meeting environmental protection regulations for species at risk in East Ridge Business Park.

Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) expressed Brockton's appreciation to Mr. Russo for his assistance on several projects, including the urban boundary expansion, Official Plan and Zoning By-Law reviews, and this new subdivision application.

Resolution 26-05-02

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Michael Crawford

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton has considered and accepts the Planning Report, prepared by Benito Russo, Bruce County Intermediate Planner, dated February 24, 2026, and entitled Municipality of Brockton Planning Report, for the draft Plan of Subdivision in the East Ridge Business Park, submitted by the Municipality of Brockton, File Number S-2025-008.

Carried

7. Delegations

8. Minutes

8.1 Council Minutes - February 10, 2026

Resolution 26-05-03

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Michael Crawford

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton adopt the minutes of the February 10, 2026 Council Meeting as presented.

Carried

9. Business Arising From the Minutes

9.1 Motion - Scattering Garden

Councillor McLean provided his goal in bringing the Notice of Motion to consider additional options to respond to the evolving needs of the community.

Resolution 26-05-04

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

Whereas cremation is now the predominant form of disposition in Ontario, and residents are increasingly seeking dignified, affordable, environmentally considerate, and low-maintenance options for the final disposition of cremated remains; and

Whereas scattering gardens are a recognized and regulated feature of municipal cemeteries under the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002*, when properly authorized, documented, and maintained; and

Whereas the Municipality of Brockton has a responsibility to ensure its cemetery services reflect evolving community needs while maintaining regulatory compliance, transparency, and long-term sustainability; and

Whereas Council wishes to explore the potential establishment of a scattering garden in a deliberate, consultative, and evidence-based manner before considering any future decisions;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That:

1. Council directs staff to undertake an exploratory review and prepare a report for Council's consideration on the feasibility of establishing one or more scattering gardens within Brockton's municipal cemeteries; and
2. That the report include, but not be limited to:
 - Legislative and regulatory requirements, including compliance with the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario
 - Review of existing cemetery by-laws, policies, and any amendments that may be required
 - Potential locations and high-level design considerations
 - Record-keeping, memorialization, and maintenance practices
 - Capacity and long-term planning implications
 - Estimated capital and operating costs, including potential fee structure
 - Identified benefits, risks and operational considerations

Carried

10. Reports

10.1 Holding Provisions Removal Report

Resolution 26-05-05

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Michael Crawford

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PLN2026-01 – Holding Provisions Removal report, prepared by Dominic Paquette, Building and Planning Manager/CBO.

Carried

10.2 Request for Expression of Interest for Lands on Eastridge Road

Council made comments in support of the report and the enthusiasm of local and established developers choosing to invest in Brockton's future.

Resolution 26-05-06

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Michael Crawford

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves Report Number CAO2026-04 – Request for Expression of Interest for Lands on Eastridge Road, prepared by Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) and Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer for information and further approves accepting the Request for Expressions of Interest from the joint venture of Bill Clancy, Don Tremble, D’s Construction and Jay Tremble for the lands in the Eastridge with an Agreement of Purchase and Sale and Subdivision Agreement coming forward in future meetings.

Carried

10.3 2025 Year End Fire and Emergency Services Report

Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services, responded to questions from Council about the situations that may be described as "false alarms". Chief Wells responded to questions about call response time and volumes, noting that increased population and increased number of alarms may influence call response times. It was also noted that the data from the previous year would be used to target areas of focus for fire prevention. Chief Wells further responded to questions from Council about the NFPA standard that would provide guidance on when a full-time department may be considered, noting Brockton was nowhere near the NFPA threshold.

Resolution 26-05-07

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Michael Crawford

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIRE2026-01 – 2025 Year End Fire and Emergency Services Report, prepared by Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services for information purposes.

Carried

10.4 Tender Results – Gravel and Calcium Chloride

Resolution 26-05-08

Moved By: Steve Travale

Seconded By: Michael Crawford

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2026-01 – Tender Results – Gravel and Calcium Chloride, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations and in doing so approves staff awarding the contracts to the following lowest bidders:

- A. Calcium Chloride: Da-Lee Dust Control for \$612/tonne
- B. Crushed Gravel (Crush and Stockpile): Joe Kerr at \$3.20/tonne, excluding HST
- C. Crushed Gravel (Crush and Apply): Joe Kerr at \$9.50/tonne, excluding HST

Carried

10.5 January 2026 Water and Wastewater Operations Maintenance

Resolution 26-05-09

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number UT2026-02 –January 2026 Water and Wastewater Operation Maintenance, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations for information purposes.

Carried

10.6 Winter Operations (Chepstow Road)

Nicholas Schnurr responded to questions from Council about the timeline for completion on the traffic study for the Chepstow Road and summarized the process that could be followed to upgrade Chepstow Road to a County road.

Mr. Schnurr noted that staff had not yet approached Bruce County on whether it would be possible for the County to complete an additional run along Chepstow Road.

Council amended the motion to include direction to staff regarding future options for winter snow removal.

Action: Staff to explore options for having the County of Bruce assist with additional winter snow removal along Chepstow Road, and request that the Rural Authority Assessment Study Consultants present to Brockton Council in the future.

Resolution 26-05-10

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Gregory J. McLean

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2026-02 - Winter Operations (Chepstow Road), prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations for information purposes and further directs staff to initiate discussions with Bruce County on additional maintenance of this road, and further that the Road Authority Assessment (RAA) Consultants attend Brockton Council during the course of their RAA Study.

Carried

10.7 Extended Lease Agreement at the Walkerton MTO Yard for Parks Operations

Council expressed enthusiasm for extending the lease and inquired about the surveillance requirements for the facility. Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services advised that the surveillance costs were proposed for delay to prevent additional strains on the 2026 budget and noted that surveillance had been included in the agreement as per the Ministry of Transportation's recommendations.

Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services, noted multiple instances of individuals accessing the building and posing health and safety concerns to employees in previous years, and the benefit of installing surveillance cameras.

Resolution 26-05-11

Moved By: Gregory J. McLean

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2026-05 - Extended Lease Agreement at the Walkerton MTO Yard for Parks

Operations, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services, and in doing so authorizes a By-Law coming forward to enter an agreement with MTO to lease the space for Parks Operations.

Carried

10.8 2026 Enabling Accessibility Fund - Walkerton Community Centre Elevator Lift Project

Council thanked staff for bringing the report forward and pursuing this improvement opportunity to increase accessibility at the Walkerton Community Centre.

Resolution 26-05-12

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2026-03 - 2026 Enabling Accessibility Fund - Walkerton Community Centre Elevator Lift Project, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services and in doing so approves staff applying for the Enabling Accessibility Fund for the Walkerton Community Centre Elevator Lift.

Carried

10.9 Council Motion - Walkerton Tennis and Pickleball Courts

Council discussed the proposed options, and opportunities for accountability of users and future sponsorships.

Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services, advised that sponsorship opportunities would be similar to signage at the Walkerton Ball Diamonds, and could be included in the Municipality's fundraising brochure. Ms. Gillis responded to questions about access codes.

Resolution 26-05-13

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2026-04 - Council Motion - Walkerton Tennis and Pickleball Courts, prepared by Colleen Gillis, Director of Community Services, and in doing so authorizes Option 4: Status Quo (continue using Pin pad and Access Code for Memberships and Single-Use) for outdoor tennis and pickleball court control access and furthermore approves amendments to 2026 Fees and Charges By-Law 2025-069 with addition of the following fees:

- Family Season Membership (Two adults plus dependent children under 18): \$200.00 per season,
- Family Day-Pass: \$20.00 per day,
- Single Court Rental Fee (tournament/event use only): \$15.00 per hour per court.

Carried

10.10 2025 Council Remuneration and Expenses

Resolution 26-05-14

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIN2026-07 – 2025 Council Remuneration and Expenses, prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer for information purposes.

Carried

10.11 International Plowing Match – Budget Request

Council discussed the proposed options, and consequences of increasing the Municipality's landfill capacity and financial impact on taxpayers.

Resolution 26-05-15

Moved By: Tim Elphick

Seconded By: Mitch Clark

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2026-03 – International Plowing Match – Budget Request, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer and in doing so approves Option 2: Landfill fees based on received materials (unsorted and sorted as applicable) for the landfill request and Option 2: Waive up to \$5,000 for the Community Services rental fees request and further approves the list of contributions to the 2026 International Plowing Match as outlined.

Carried

10.12 Municipal Services Corporation Recycling Business Case Study RFP Approval

Mayor Peabody explained how Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling would be funding the study, and expressed gratitude to Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) for her leadership with the project.

Resolution 26-05-16

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves Report Number CLK2026-02 – Municipal Services Corporation Recycling Business Case Study RFP Approval, prepared by Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) and:

- receives and approves the resolution from the Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling Board of Management directing the Municipal Working Group to retain KPMG LLP to complete a comprehensive business case study to support the creation of a municipal services corporation, with the amount of \$111,813.27 to be funded by Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling;
- approves a subgroup from the working group, including Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) to be the point of contact for the municipalities with the role of providing direction and support to the consultants.

Carried

10.13 Compensation Review Advisory Committee

Resolution 26-05-17

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves Report Number CO2026-02 - Compensation Review Advisory Committee, prepared by Mayor, Chris Peabody and in doing so approves the Terms of Reference as prepared.

Carried

11. Public Notification

12. Correspondence Requiring Action

12.1 Invitation to Grey and Bruce County Federations of Agricultural Politicians Meeting

Deputy Mayor Hutcheon, Councillor Travale, and Mayor Peabody noted that they would be attending the Politician's Meeting on March 21, 2026.

12.2 Canadian Poolplayers Association - Request to Declare Championship Tournament a Municipally Significant Event

Resolution 26-05-18

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton declares the Southwestern Ontario Canadian Poolplayers Association Annual Local Team Championship Tournament on May 21, 22, 23, and 24, 2026 at the Walkerton Community Centre a Municipally Significant Event.

Carried

12.3 Baker Tilly SGB LLP - 2025 Audit of Brockton Consolidated Financial Statements

Resolution 26-05-19

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton accept the planning letter from Baker Tilly LLP SGB regarding the audit of the Municipality of Brockton's 2025 Consolidated Financial Statements.

Carried

13. Information

13.1 Association of Ontario Road Supervisors - Advocating For The Safety Of Municipal Equipment Operators

13.2 Bluewater District School Board Correspondence - Review and Formal Consultation on Removal of Trustees

13.3 Hanover/Walkerton Waste Management Committee Minutes - November 14, 2025

13.4 Town of Fort Frances Resolution - Support Edwardsburg Cardinal on OCIF Review

13.5 Township of Puslinch Resolution - Support Magnetawan on Invest Ready Certified Site Designation

13.6 Township of Southgate Resolution - Support for Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025

Councillor McLean requested that this item be brought forward for consideration at the next Council Meeting.

Resolution 26-05-20

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives all items provided in Section 13. Information.

Carried

14. By-Laws

Resolution 26-05-21

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton authorize that the following by-laws be read, enacted, signed, sealed, and numbered as follows:

- By-Law 2026-018 - Holding Removal By-Law Spitzig c/o Cobide Z-2024-098
- By-Law 2026-019 - Saugeen Hospice Inc. ERBP Agreement of Purchase and Sale By-Law

Carried

15. Committee Minutes

16. New Business Brought Forward

1. Family Day

Mayor Peabody extended appreciation to the Community Services Department for organizing a great Family Day event, and fundraising efforts of the Walkerton Fire Department and South Bruce O.P.P., further congratulating the Fire Department on the Battle of the Badges victory.

2. The Big Door Warming Centre

Councillor McLean thanked individuals at The Big Door for their community lunches and noted that discussions were being finalized to open an additional warming centre at that facility.

3. Walkerton Knights of Columbus Member Recognition

Councillor Travale extended congratulations to Walkerton Knights of Columbus member, Don Schmidt, on celebrating 40 years chairing the K of C bingo events.

17. Closed Session

A Closed Session did not occur as part of this Council Meeting.

18. Confirmation of Proceedings

Resolution 26-05-22

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton authorize that the following by-law be read, enacted, signed, sealed, and numbered as follows:

- By-Law 2026-020 - February 24, 2026 Confirmatory By-Law

Carried

19. Adjournment

Resolution 26-05-23

Moved By: Mitch Clark

Seconded By: Tim Elphick

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton does now adjourn at 7:59 p.m. to meet again on March 10, 2026.

Carried

Mayor - Chris Peabody

Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) – Fiona Hamilton